

## UNCLASSIFIED

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 ACTION WHA-00 B4

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	CTME-00
	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	FBO-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PC-05	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01
	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

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P 112231Z JUN 01  
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1950  
 INFO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
 DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
 AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
 CIA WASHDC  
 DIA WASHDC  
 NSC WASHDC  
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
 AMEMBASSY HANOI

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR WHA/AND, WHA/ESPC  
 STATE PLEASE PASS OPIC FOR DMORENESE  
 STATE PASS EXIMBANK FOR AMERICAS DIVISION  
 COMMERCE FOR 4331/IEP/OLA/AND/JANGLIN AND FOR  
 3134/USFCS/OIO/WH/DLUTTER  
 ENERGY FOR GARY WARD AND ERIKA BENSEN  
 HANOI FOR BERG

E.O. 12958: N/A

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR  
 DATE/CASE ID: 14 JAN 2004 200203418

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TAGS: EPET, ENRG, ECON, EINV, PINR, ASEC, CO  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S JUNE 5 MEETING WITH TEXACO

REFTEL: BOGOTA 04064

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) AMBASSADOR MET ON JUNE 5 WITH TEXACO PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION OPERATIONS FOR WORLDWIDE EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION JOHN BETHANCOURT, SENIOR PRODUCTION ADVISOR FOR WORLDWIDE PRODUCTION OPERATIONS JANEEN JUDAH AND TEXACO COLOMBIA PRESIDENT ALEX ARCHILA. BETHANCOURT TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THE NATURAL GAS PRICING BILL (REFTEL) WAS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO PASS, AND THAT

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COMMENT

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5. (SBU) TEXACO HAS A USD 200 MILLION OFFSHORE INVESTMENT IN THE GUAJIRA REGION AND IS THE LAST COMPANY IN COLOMBIA THAT HAS AN EXPLORATION CONTRACT FOR GAS (FIVE COMPETITORS HAVE DROPPED OUT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS). WITH LITTLE HOPE OF PASSAGE OF THE NATURAL GAS PRICING BILL BEFORE THE CURRENT COLOMBIAN CONGRESSIONAL SESSION ENDS JUNE 20, TEXACO MUST KEEP ITS FINGERS CROSSED THAT COLOMBIA'S ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (CREG) WILL WORK WITH THE ENERGY AND MINES MINISTRY TO CREATE NEW REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO LIBERALIZE THE NATURAL GAS MARKET. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT EFFECT THE RECENT RECONFIGURATION OF THE CREG BOARD WILL HAVE. END COMMENT.

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PATTERSON

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